

Cheddleton Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN WETLEY ROCKS VILLAGE HALL, MILL LANE, WETLEY ROCKS ON TUESDAY, 22nd. APRIL 2025

ATTENDANCE Chairman - Councillor M. Ahmad.

Councillor - D.S. Bagnall, Mrs. V.B. Cornes, M.F. Cunningham, K. Harvey,
Mrs. C. A. Lovatt, O.C. Pointon, Miss. S.J. Rogers, Mrs. L. Shaw, T.G. Williamson and
M.P. Worthington.

Clerk - Mrs. L. J. Green.

576. **APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Miss. V.L Salt, Mrs. S.C. Beardmore, Mrs. A. Grocott, Miss. G. Grocott, & K. Grocott, it was resolved to accept these.
577. **NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING** - The Clerk reported that the Meeting was advertised on all Notice Boards and on Facebook pages Cheddleton Chat and Cheddleton Gossip plus the Council Website well within the 7 days' Notice legally required.
578. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23rd. APRIL 2024** - It was resolved to accept these as a true record.
579. **MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM** - No items were raised.
580. **ATTENDANCE RECORDS** - The Clerk read out the list of attendance by Councillors to the 10 Meetings of the Parish Council. Being Councillors Ahmad 10, Bagnall 10, Mrs. Beardmore 3 of 3, Mrs. Cornes 9, Cunningham 8, Mrs. Grocott 6, Miss Grocott 7, Mr. Grocott 7, Harvey 9, Mrs. Lovatt 10, Pointon 5, Miss. Rogers 9, Miss. V. Salt 4, Mrs. Shaw 9, Williamson 8 and Worthington 6. Members who resigned Mr. Leeder 0 of 3, and Sidley 3 of 6.
581. **CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR** - Good evening, and welcome to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as the Chairman of Cheddleton Parish Council over the last two years and to share this review of our activities over the past year.
- Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Vice-Chair, Councillor Miss. Victoria Salt, and to all members of the Council for their dedication and service. Those who have chaired the various committees.

Community Safety & Health

The Parish Council continues to prioritize the health and safety of our residents. We now maintain nine defibrillators across the parish, ensuring they are regularly checked and ready for emergency use thanks to Councillor Miss. Susan Rogers. These devices are registered with the West Midlands Ambulance Service and are publicly accessible, with locations available through Defib Finder.

Meetings & Governance

Throughout the year, the Council has remained active and engaged, holding regular meetings across all its committees to address key matters including planning, finance, environment, facilities, and public wellbeing.

Representation & Liaison

Councillors continue to represent the Parish on numerous external committees and partnerships. We work closely with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Historic England, CPRE, the Canal & River Trust, and other bodies to promote responsible development and conservation across the parish.

Local Issues & Advocacy

From potholes and road safety to fly tipping, overgrown trees, and dog fouling, the Council remains vigilant in identifying and addressing concerns raised by residents. We liaise directly with Staffordshire County Council and other authorities to escalate issues and advocate for local improvements.

Grants & Funding

We are pleased to report on the successful acquisition of several grants this year, including:

- £961 from the Climate Action Fund – to install energy-efficient LED lighting at the Community Centre.
- £10600 from Historic England – to restore the Butter Cross.
- Ongoing funding applications – to support improvements to play equipment, particularly at Toll Bar and Cheddleton Playing Fields.

These efforts help enhance community facilities without increasing the burden on residents through Council Tax.

Planning

Since April 2024, the Council has reviewed and commented on approximately 60 planning applications. Our aim remains to support appropriate, sustainable development while preserving the parish's character. Some very important developments for Solar Energy.

Guest Engagement

Over the course of the year, we've welcomed guest speakers from local service providers and businesses, as well as residents attending to raise important issues, especially those concerning development or infrastructure.

Butter Cross Restoration

The restoration of the historic Butter Cross structure continues, with funding support from Historic England, Staffordshire County Council, and our own Footpath Volunteers. In addition to this, our volunteers have been hard at work conducting traditional dry-stone walling around the site, helping to preserve and enhance the historic landscape. The project is due to reach completion by this summer, preserving an iconic village feature for future generations. A special thank you to Councillor Keith Harvey for all his time and effort spent on the project.

Burial Grounds

Our three burial grounds—St Edward’s Lawn, Cheddleton Lawn Cemetery, and the Asylum Burial Ground—are well cared for and maintained with respect and attention. We thank our grounds contractors for their dedicated service.

Community & Craft Centres

We have completed vital compliance and safety updates to the Community and Craft Centres, including fire risk assessments, PAT testing, fixed wire inspections, and continued maintenance. With new LED lighting being installed and planning granted for solar energy and storage, we are proud of the steps taken toward a more sustainable and cost-effective future.

Special thanks to our caretakers, Stan and Christina Beardmore, for their continued commitment to maintaining these valuable community spaces.

Playing Fields

Our four playing fields—Cheddleton, Toll Bar, Wetley Rocks, and Bridge Eye—remain a key focus of community investment. This year we’ve continued to apply for funding to replace ageing equipment and improve accessibility and amenities including Lottery Funding of £17,000. Notably, we’re collaborating with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Fields in Trust to progress a significant redevelopment project at Cheddleton.

Footpaths & Outdoor Access

Volunteer inspections and maintenance have kept our footpath network safe and accessible. Our thanks to the volunteers who we rely on to give their time and expertise.

Donations & Fundraising

The Parish Council made charitable donations this year to:

- Douglas Macmillan Hospice
- Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreaths)
- Cheddleton Flint Mill
- Cancer Research Annual Pudding Race
- Other local causes and memberships including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and CPRE

Our 2024 Christmas Card Collection raised £400 for the four churches, and we held our Council Dinner at the Red Lion in Cheddleton.

Council Membership

It has been a dynamic year for Council membership, with several resignations and co-options. We still have one vacancy to fill our full complement of 17 Councillors, representing Cheddleton, Southlowe, and Wetley Rocks. I extend a warm welcome to our new members and thank all Councillors for their continued public service.

Conclusion

It has been an honour to serve as Chairman this year. Representing the Council at events has been a privilege, and I look forward to continuing our work to support and serve the residents of Cheddleton, Wetley Rocks, and Southlowe.

Special thanks to our Clerk, Louise, for her professionalism and unwavering support, to our handyman Steve Billings, and to all members of the public who continue to take an interest in and contribute to the wellbeing of our Parish.

Thank you.

582. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - Councillor Worthington thanked Councillor Keith Harvey for work with volunteers on the footpaths and our litter pickers who also give their time for free keeping the village tidy.

Chairman